

Message Text

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ACTION AGRE-00

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TAGS EAGR EGEN EAID BR

SUBJECT: US SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE

REF: STATE 225257

1. WE NOTE IN REFTEL THAT AID/W INDICATED THAT IT WOULD DESIGNATE THE AID AFFAIRS OFFICER AS ITS REPRESENTATIVE AT THE SEPTEMBER INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE US-BRAZIL SUB-GROUP ON AGRICULTURE. WE BELIEVE THAT FORMAL DESIGNATION OF AID REPRESENTATION IS INAPPROPRIATE AND COULD BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE GOB DELEGATION. PRIOR DISCUSSIONS ON COOPERATION BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND USDA OVER THE PAST THREE YEARS HAVE ALWAYS STALLED WHEN IT CAME TO THE QUESTION OF HOW TO FINANCE COOPERATIVE ACTIVITIES:

NOW THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE READY TO FACE THIS ISSUE DIRECTLY, IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE TO HAVE THE GOB DELEGATION MISREAD THE AID PRESENCE ON THE US DELEGATION. WE NOTE FURTHER THAT AID WAS NOT REPRESENTED AT THE JULY SUB-GROUP MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON.

2. WE APPRECIATE AID'S CONTINUED INTEREST IN BRAZIL, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT EXAMINATION OF A POSSIBLE "MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES STRATEGY" INVOLVING BRAZIL. (SEE BRASILIA 6073 FOR EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THE MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES ISSUE.) HOWEVER, IT WAS NEVER THE INTENTION THAT THE AGRICULTURE SUB-GROUP OR ANY OF THE OTHER SUB-GROUPS OPERATING UNDER THE KISSINGER-SILVEIRA

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WOULD BE A VEHICLE FOR PROVIDING AID IN A CONVENTIONAL OR CONCESSIONAL SENSE. THE GROUPS, IF SUCCESSFUL, WILL OPERATE ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND THE INTENTIONS ARE THAT EACH PARTY WILL FINANCE ITS OWN CONTRIBUTIONS, THEREFORE ELIMINATING ANY REIMBURSABLE ASPECT OF SUB-GROUP-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES. IF BRAZIL IS TO BE GIVEN A BILL FOR ACTIVITIES OF USDA INTEREST, THEN THE USEFULNESS OF THE SUB-GROUP WILL BE IMPAIRED IF NOT ELIMINATED

ED.

3. WE REALIZE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR AID TO KNOW WHAT THE SUB-GROUP WILL BE DOING SO AS TO AVOID DUPLICATION OR INTERFERENCE WITH ONGOING AID BILATERAL OR REGIONAL PROJECTS OR NEW REGIONAL OR TITLE XII ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY COME TO BE DEVELOPED. THIS IS IN THE INTEREST OF THE EMBASSY AS WELL AND WE THINK THIS INTEREST CAN BE ACCOMMODATED THROUGH THE DEVIDE OF HAVING THE BRASILIA AID AFFAIRS OFFICER BE PRESENT AT THE AGRICULTURE SUB-GROUP MEETING AS AN OBSERVER.
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